



*Vale*

## Ralph Leonard Ellis Holloway

*30 November 1926 - 14 August 2022*

Ralph Leonard Ellis Holloway was born on the 30th November 1926 in the Sydney suburb of Bexley. He was the only son of Leonard Dixon – known as John Holloway, and his wife Constance Ellen, nee Quintal. Their house was next to the Bexley railway station, and Ralph’s early memories of the Chooff Chooff (train) coming past was where his love for engines and all things mechanical began.

Ralph remembered, and often spoke of his first visit to Norfolk on the Mokambo when he was four years old. He recalled that on first sight, he couldn’t understand how there could possibly be motor cars on the Island. When his mother realised he was looking at Philip Island, she took him to the opposite porthole and pointed to Norfolk, and then it made sense. They were met at the Jetty by his great-grandfather, Cornish Quintal in a horse drawn buggy.

Ralph completed his first year of schooling on Norfolk, before the family returned to Sydney, where he grew up and completed his education. After leaving school, he applied for a cadetship with Burns Philp & Co Ltd., a major Australian shipping line and merchant that operated in the South Pacific. Burns Philp provided a shipping service to Norfolk Island that dated back to approximately 1895, and also owned and operated a retail store on the island. Ralph worked in the Sydney office of Burns Philp until the 3rd February 1944, then he enlisted with the Merchant Navy in Brisbane. During his naval career from 1944 to 1947 he was assigned to several ships, and travelled to various locations around Australia and the Pacific. His memories of this time stayed with him for the rest of his life and he could recall the names of ships, people and places with accuracy and precision.

Upon discharge from the Navy in 1947, Ralph returned to Norfolk to take up work in the family business which included the Holloway Store in Burnt Pine, and later a taxi service and Holloways Motor Garage.

*(continued overleaf)*



John returns to practice on the *31st August to the 5th September*. Send an email to [jk@sunnies.net](mailto:jk@sunnies.net) or phone 22522 on or after the 31st to book an appointment.

Astronomical Telescopes



SMITH

### ***Ralph Leonard Ellis Holloway - continued***

The Business eventually included the Ford Dealership, supplying countless vehicles and motor parts to the island. There aren't many long-time Norfolk residents who wouldn't have experienced the unique atmosphere of Ralph's work shop, waiting while he sifted through the treasure trove to find the required item, (it was very seldom that he didn't find it) and enjoying a chat with him.

For many years Holloways Taxis were a reliable provider of services around the island, and to and from the Norfolk Airport where Ralph and his taxi were a constant. He shared a wonderful camaraderie and some hilarious moments with the other local taxi drivers, especially in the era before the buses. (Ef oony dem taxi el talk!). Ralph's motto was – what happens in the taxi, stays in the taxi...

Retirement wasn't on Ralph's bucket list. Until very recently he would walk up and open his garage daily, and customers and friends would find him ready and waiting for a chat (so long as it didn't conflict with the morning serial on the wireless!). It was a rare day that anyone would make it in and out of the garage quickly, and few tried. Ralph not only had a memory like a steel trap, his wonderful talent for mimicry brought his stories to life. This astounding ability to unconsciously (and respectfully) tek orf a salan, meant that as you marvelled at him bringing to life the person who had been in the door before you, it also meant that you knew that the next person coming in was going to hear your voice and mannerisms played out to the life. The theatre was always alive and well in the garage. With a crooked point of the finger and that little cheeky chuckle those amazing stories made us laugh and kept us coming back for more.

His most recent project, which brought him much joy, was the mateship and the hours he spent working alongside Buff throughout the restoration of the old tow truck. Buff dedicated his time over the last 7 years to getting this truck restored. There were many days where not a tool was picked up as Ralph relayed the many stories of this vehicle. The tow truck had been brought to Norfolk by the late Bill Hart, but it wasn't only used to tow vehicles, quite often it included the rescue of livestock. Despite the efforts of Buff, Fraser and many others, the truck was not completed before Ralph left us, but he did get to hear that engine running one more time, en he se pepper.

Ralph had a wide circle of friends, and was an avid correspondent. He maintained friendships through the years, and many a returning resident to the island would find their way to his shed to say hello and reminisce over days of old. He always loved the old photos and articles that friends shared with him, he never forgot any of the people and associated events throughout his lifetime.

Ralph was a man of faith, he worked tirelessly over the years as a member of the parish council and a Sidesman of the Church of England. He took this role seriously and conscientiously, and could always be relied upon to ensure that the brass was gleaming, while allowing more than enough time to hand out the

order of service, and greet his fellow members of the congregation.

Ralph often recalled fondly that one of the first people he remembers as a small boy on Norfolk, was the late Gus Martin who he only ever referred to as Mr Martin. He remembers the old Dodge driving around the road to the Martin business, and he would say "we always heard it long before we saw it". The Holloway, Martin and Ombler friendship has endured down through the generations, right up until his passing. We all loved him, and will treasure our memories and miss him always.

Ralph's uncle, the Late Roy Harry Cornish Quintal moved back to Norfolk in 1968, with his wife and stepson Rossco. The two cousins formed an unbreakable bond which lasted to the end. Rossco thought of Ralph as an older brother. In later years with his own two boys, Joel and Luke, Rossco moved into the house next door to Ralph where he still calls home. Joel and Luke spent many hours with Aunty Con and Uncle Ralph and have many a fond memory of them both.

Ralph was a very independent, private and proud man. He lived on his own without the aid of a walking stick or pills until recently. When he could no longer manage on his own in his home, Rossco and Gae welcomed him into theirs. Ralph settled in and loved being part of the family, and it was a privilege for Rossco and Gae to be able to share their home and care for him. They spent many hours around the table listening to the wonderful stories Ralph loved to share. His wealth of knowledge of Norfolk's history was incredible, and his portraying of this left you wanting to ask more. AND they had so much more they wanted to ask.....

On Sunday the 14th August, Ralph and Rossco watched the football together. Ralph enjoyed his dinner, finishing up with a bowl of stewed Norfolk peaches and cream. With a full bally, no fuss and his trademark courtesy, he passed away with dignity at home with Rossco and Gae.

We farewell Ralph, one of Norfolk's true gentleman. He has always been held in the highest regard. Plenti salan gwen mess hem, en plenty gwen wish dem bin arsa hem more. His passing leaves us with heavy hearts, but the memories will endure as we celebrate his long life and give thanks for having known him.

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## **Thank You**

And our thank you. - Rossco, Gae and family would like to sincerely thank all yorlyi who offered comfort and support on the passing of Ralph, awas Norfolk treasure. All the kind things yorlyi do have made this difficult time bearable.

A special thanks to all those who contributed to the service on Sunday - yorlyi es so beautiful and kind and we are truly grateful.

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